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Some of the Farm Jobs Which  
City and Town Women Might Do

In the home vegetable garden, inexperienced workers might soon learn to prepare soil, plant seed, and do necessary weeding and hoeing. They could learn to operate hand sprayers and to dust plants for insect control. When vegetables are ripe, the work of picking and packing the product, and sometimes grading for market, takes many hands.

On a farm specializing in commercial truck crops, a great deal of hand work can be mastered by a willing worker. Crops have to be planted and weeded. Vegetables must be harvested, washed, and packed in boxes or other containers. All these jobs require many laborers.

On a poultry farm, the inexperienced worker can learn many routine chores, such as feeding and watering the birds, cleaning poultry houses, and gathering, candling, crating, and grading eggs. Egg records must be kept and the incubator and brooder looked after--jobs which require care and conscientious effort. Chickens for market must be killed, cleaned; packed--jobs which can be done by women and girls.

A dairy farm has a great deal of routine work. Women have learned successfully to run milking machines and to mix grain and feeds. Someone to wash and care for milk utensils, to run the separator and cooler, and to clean the milk house and the barn is a big help to a dairy farmer whose hired man is in war industry or the armed services. Women have also proved to be good butter makers, and can drive a milk truck to market or deliver retail milk.

Feeding and watering livestock is a chore which could be taken over by a good woman worker on many farms. As sheep herders and as extra helpers at lambing time, women have proved their worth.

In the orchard and vineyard women can drive the spray truck, help in pruning trees, pick and grade fruit, pack it in boxes or barrels, and truck it to market.

In the fields women learn to be good at handling such machinery as harrows, disks, fertilizer spreaders, mowing machines, rakes, or hay loaders.

The home is sometimes the place where the most valuable service can be given, when an experienced farm woman can be released for work in the field. Volunteers for work in farm homes can do much for the war program by taking care of children, cooking meals for farm workers, cleaning the house, canning and drying surplus fruit and vegetables, making preserves, jellies, and pickles, doing the family

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washing and ironing, marketing in town for the farm family, doing necessary sewing, or keeping farm and home records.

ASSETS OF WOMEN WORKERS AS ANALYZED BY INDUSTRY AND APPLICATION TO AGRICULTURE \*

Assets of Women Workers: From actual experience it is known that women have the following assets as workers:

Application to Agriculture

Dexterity and Speed: Women give excellent performance in work requiring manipulative speed and finger dexterity.

Grading, cleaning, packing, tying.

Accuracy: Women's services are satisfactory in the use of light instruments, in inspection and other work requiring care, constant alertness, and precision.

Recording, weighing and grading, candling eggs.

Patience: Women in general seem more content than men to put up with the monotony of repetitive operations.

Patience in repeating farm jobs such as weeding gardens, gathering eggs, milking, etc.

Interest: The fields that women are now entering are new to most of them. Consequently, interest can be a strong motivation for production.

Interest in living and growing things.  
Satisfaction in results.  
Application of science.

Curiosity: Because this work is new to women, they want to know the "why's." It is a good policy to give the reasons in teaching safety regulations and working procedures.

Scientific agriculture, plant and animal breeding, plant and animal disease work are intriguing.

Rivalry: There seems to be a natural rivalry among women workers. Guide this into good-natured competition for increased production.

Contests and awards can be used in gardening, poultry production, canning, and many other pursuits.

Patriotism: Patriotism more than the pay check is the reason some women are entering war work. Respect the sincerity of their motive and help them to make their work effective.

Many women are anxious to help by doing farm work to aid in feeding the United Nations.

\* From Education for Victory, Vol. 1, No. 123, February 1, 1943



Limitations: Women can be trained for employment in much the same way as men. They should be expected to meet equally high standards of workmanship. Scientific study has revealed that women do have certain physical limitations which may necessitate modifications of working conditions. These are relatively few:

Application to Agriculture

Strength: Women have less lifting and pulling strength than men. Engineering departments can meet this by providing mechanical lifting device.

Cannot lift heavy grain sacks or filled milk cans, pitch hay, or do other farm jobs that require unusual strength.

Susceptibility to Poisoning: Women are more susceptible to chemical poisoning and to certain types of dermatitis. Clean wiping cloths will minimize the chances of developing dermatitis from the oil of the machine. It is essential to provide adequate washing facilities.

Care should be taken when women aid in spraying fruit trees and vegetable gardens.

Liability to Fatigue: Women are more susceptible to fatigue from standing than are men. Every State but one has legislation regulating seating accommodations for women workers.

If rest periods are provided women can work the same length of day as men.

Tendency to Excessive Absence:

The general feeling that women are absent from work more often than men has not been proved. The absence of women is often due to cause other than personal, such as home duties. Good personnel policy can usually find those causes and offer solutions. Most women carry two jobs, but it is possible for them to develop "short cuts" in their domestic routine.

Standards for enrollment in the Women's Land Army should exclude the physically disabled, those having full-time home duties, and persons who do not have a sincere liking for farm life.

\* From Education for Victory, Vol. 1, No. 123, February 1, 1943

1. Content of the book

2. Author's name

3. Date of publication

4. Subject of the book

5. Name of the publisher

6. Place of publication

7. Price of the book

8. Notes

9. Date of acquisition

10. Name of the donor

11. Name of the library

12. Address of the library

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17. Name of the librarian

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